land we have to come to an arrangement as to the method of import. The Travancore Government allows import. How to get the goods and through whom to get them? There is no use of being impatient over this. One has to face the situation according to the realities.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ : ആളുകളുടെ വയറാണ് സമ്മതിക്കാത്തത്.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. മാധവപ്രഭ : എന്നാൽപിന്നെ അവിടെ പോയിട്ട് തട്ടിപ്പറിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു പോരിക! അവിടെ പ്രൊഹിബിറ്റ ചെയ്യുവാൻ പോകുന്നുവെന്ന് അവർ മുൻകൂട്ടി ഞങ്ങളോട പറഞ്ഞില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ : എന്നാൽ എത്ര കോ-ഓപ്പറേഷനാണുള്ളത്?

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. മാധവപ്രഭ : ഇവിടെ ധാരാളമുണ്ട്. പക്ഷെ, രണ്ടാഴ്ചയെ കിട്ടുവാനുള്ള വിഷമമുണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളു.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ : രണ്ടാഴ്ച കിട്ടിയില്ലെങ്കിൽ സാധുക്കളുടെ സ്ഥിതി എന്തായിരിക്കും.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Why do you depend entirely upon Travancore. In Pariyaram, Chalakkudi and other places, all the tapioca is exported to Parur. All the tapioca produced in Malayattur is exported to Parur. Why can't you allow it to be taken to Ernakulam?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhhu *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies):* Did anybody prevent it from being brought to Ernakulam? What is the use of accusing Government, in all those matters. If Malayattur people do not take tapioca to Ernakulam, what can the Government do?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ : തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഇവിടത്തേക്കാൾ വില കുറവല്ലെ?

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. മാധവപ്രഭ : ഇപ്പോൾ കുറവാണ്. വില എങ്ങനെയായാലും ഞങ്ങൾ ആർഡ്ര ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ ഇവിടെനിന്നു ചരക്കുകൾ അവിടെ പോകുമെന്ന് പറയുന്നതു സാധാരണയാണ്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ : കൊല്ലപുരക്കൽ സൂചി വില്ക്കുവാൻ കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതുപോലെയല്ലെ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്ക് കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതു?

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. മാധവപ്രഭ : അങ്ങിനെയാണല്ലൊ വിചാരിക്കേണ്ടതു.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ : ഇപ്പിട്ടീഷിലേക്ക് കടത്തുന്നുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. മാധവപ്രഭ : അതുണ്ടായിരിക്കാം.

For these reasons, first of all, there is no necessity for it. Secondly it will be a kind of injustice to these municipalities if we take it away from them. I oppose this motion.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* My only object was to call public attention to these matters and to have a discussion inside the House as to the system that we are following, the drawbacks that are inherent in it and the difficulties facing the people. I had absolutely no intention of pressing this to a division or to have a victory in this House for the proposition. Now that the Hon'ble Commissioner states that the system that has already been attempted is working satisfactorily in the municipalities, there is no need for rationing yet in the country, I do not think that I should press this motion to a division.

Resolution, by leave, withdrawn

RESOLUTION No. 4

Ensuring a fair price to the cultivators

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* I beg to move the following resolution. "*This Council recommends to the Government that in the interest of the Food Production Drive in the State, the producers may be guaranteed reasonable prices for their agricultural products*". I shall explain the scope of this resolution by referring to the previous history. Till 7th December 1941, we have not experienced the difficulties of a war on our shores. But when Japan declared war against India and the Burma market was closed, we found that there was not sufficient quantity of rice for consumption in the State. Naturally people began to cultivate all available land by planting tapioca, paddy, etc., and the Government also encouraged. The Hon'ble Minister was vigorously carrying on a propaganda for inducing people to grow more food and more and more food. With that object a scheme was prepared by the Diwan and the effect of that was to give 5 acres of land to each person who applies and then to give loans also wherever necessary. The

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Hon'ble Minister helped by Mr. Panicker was going from village to village and saying "You come and cultivate all poramboke lands". People naturally cultivated not only poramboke lands but also their own lands. Regarding the 5 acres of land, I may say from my own experience, on account of this propaganda people were rushing in with applications and one thousand or 1,500 applications were received from Pariyaram alone. There was land also. About 15,000 acres of land were available. But all these applications were rejected. In some cases, instead of 5 acres 5 cents were given.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur)*: It is not relevant to the discussion, Sir.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*:. You do not understand me. I am dealing with the assistance given by Government in the matter of production. Without giving any real assistance to the producers, they want to interfere with prices. I want to emphasise that point. The help promised was not given. Even people have to spend 8 or 9 annas for their application and after 5 months one Revenue Inspector came and made investigations and made a report. Afterwards nothing was heard about these applications. This is the sort of help that Government have given to the people. People felt, when Burma was gone, that they must cultivate their lands. Therefore they borrowed money by mortgaging their property and cultivated their own land. What I say is that such people be allowed to get fair prices for their products. In spite of the Government, they cultivated the land. You should not unduly interfere with the freedom of selling their produce at a reasonable price.

The immediate occasion for sending this resolution was the price fixed by Government for 2½ lbs. of tapioca at 7 pies. I was under the impression that the Government will give fair prices to all these agricultural products. Some time ago I read the Government of India notification encouraging agriculturists to produce foodstuffs. So I never feared that Government will interefere too much in the liberty of citizens to sell tapioca at prices which they fix. I have no quarrel with the Government if they control tapioca. But what I object to is that you must fix up prices in such a way that the agriculturists should be able to make reasonable profits. They do not want to profiteer.

Deputy President: With regard to tapioca the present price is 10 pies for 2½ lbs.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Now it is increased by 4 pies. That also under the present circumstances, is not adequate. This fixation of prices that is 7 pies for 2½ lbs. has prompted me to table this resolution.

Deputy President: The price is raised now.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: I am grateful to the Government for that. Without any prodding, as Mr. Churchill would say, they have done it.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: It is not on account of the resolution that we did it. We are independently investigating. We cannot do anything without consulting the Travancore Government.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: You must always have friendly collaboration with the Travancore Government. But you must have your independence also. You must have certain ideas which are sacred. I hope you are all educated people, and you know the traditions of our State. You should show that you are worthy of the salary paid by the Maharaja's Government. Therefore you must exert your independence. You must have collaboration with the Travancore Government and I hate the Excise barrier between Travancore and Cochin. In 1937 at our Federal Committee, I have raised this point. That is, the trade barriers and the excise duty between the two States be stopped, because our people and Travancore people are one. Our daughters are married there and their daughters are married here. What is the difference? If they starve, it is equivalent to our starving and if we starve, it is equivalent to their starving. Between Cochin and Travancore, there should not be any difference. If they do not agree to that, exert your own independence and not surrender everything to them. That is the point. As soon as the price was published in the Government Gazette at 7 pies for 2½ pounds, people began to feel a sort of despair. Some people formed partnership; they raised money by mortgaging their property and began to cultivate forests. Some people have now stopped cultivation because it is impossible to sell 2½ pounds for seven pies.

Deputy President: That they have changed.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: That is not sufficient. Even in pre-war days, they were getting more. Long before this war, they were getting this price. Now, wages have gone up three times. In our places, if we want to get a labourer, we have to pay 8 annas. With that we have to give rice *(choru)*. Formerly it was two annas or three annas and *kanji*. Now if you fix the price like that, how can they manage? This price is not sufficient. You may

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control the price. But consider all these aspects. You must not ruin the agriculturists who have taken in their heads, fortunately, or unfortunately to produce tapioca and other foodstuffs. You should not penalise them. You must fix a reasonable rate.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്". പണിക്കർ: പൌണ്ടിന്" നു പൈ ആയാൽ തൃപ്തിപ്പെടുമോ?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Even that will not give reasonable margin of profit. Considering the difficulty of the poor people who consume this, I said, fix at six pies per pound. But at the present moment, this six pies may not be sufficient. Therefore if you want to have more food and if you want to encourage people to grow more food, you must guarantee them a fair price. If the Government is going to take tapioca and paddy, fair price should be given. We are having socialism now. Government prescribe how much we shall eat and at what price it shall be purchased and from where to be produced. If you go to cinema there is a limit as to what all you can see there. Every liberty of the citizen is curtailed now. We are not grumbling. We are now having complete socialism. We must have socialism on a reasonable model. Give fair price for the people for their products. With these observations, I would request the Government to carry out the resolution.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* I support the resolution of my Hon'ble Friend. But I am very anxious to avoid both extremes in the discussion of the resolution. As rightly pointed out from the Chair, one important item to which this question related presently, is the rise in the price of tapioca. I think Government is not doing the correct thing in always trying to completely imitate Travancore.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies):* We are not doing it. You are assuming a thing which is not being done. You are bringing all sorts of personal attacks and we are sitting here simply to pocket them.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Certain officers imagine that they are being personally attacked. It is just like imagining a shadow and fighting with it. I cannot help it. When I say certain things, I say that with a certain amount of responsibility. Don't throw personal reflections.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies):* It is not upon you. When persons attack, I have simply to pocket it.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* That is the fate of some members of the Treasury Bench. I am saying this because in Travancore the price of tapioca was fixed at 7 pies for 2½ pounds long ago. Our Government imitated that price. Now, I ask the Government and the Civil Supplies Commissioner who has been responsible in advising to fix that price whether they have considered the local factors, whether they have taken pains to fix the price of tapicoa according to local conditions, according to the cost of labour and manure. If you have independently considered these questions, you would never have fixed 7 pies for 2½ pounds. I ask the Civil Supplies Commissioner, what is the foundation for the statement which he has now made that he is not blindly imitating Travancore? I ask, have you ever tested to see whether with this price you can produce 2½ pounds of tapioca? You are having your own cultivation. You can test the accounts maintained by the Government departmentally and and see whether it is a reasonable price. If it is after that that you have fixed the price, then there is no meaning in your revising the price now. So that, the point to which I drive the attention of the House is this: Price control is a very difficult problem; nor is it a matter which has to be very leisurely examined and leisurely put into practice by making experiments and counter experiments so leisurely that you can allow the whole system to fail.

Now, I ask the Government, Sir, by fixing the price of tapioca at 7 pies for 2½ pounds, for more than 2½ weeks, you have practically deprived the markets of the Cochin State of tapioca. Who is responsible for it? Several representations are made to the Government. Was there not time for the Government to consider these factors and come to an independent decision. You depend upon the Travancore Government. You do not compare the factors obtaining in Travancore and Cochin State. You blindly imitate Travancore. I say it is a dangerous policy—not only with regard to this but with regard to many other items. Now, if you are under the impression that this State because it is smaller than Travancore should imitate Travancore in all matters relating to price and food control you are labouring under a very grievous misapprehension. Even the Travancore Diwan says that we have reached such a stage that we should seek our own protection—local protection—States for themselves and British India for its own provinces. The problem is beyond our control. You can have any kind of friendly relation. I am not standing in the way at all. You should examine with that sense of duty before you whether you are doing the correct thing which is conducive in the interests of the people. Sir,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

if you examine the main question relating to food production followed throughout the whole of India, the one fundamental principle on which the whole scheme is based is that you can have a successful food production scheme only by guaranteeing a reasonable rate of price. The Central Food Production Advisory Committee comes to the conclusion that not only in regulating the prices, you should maintain a reasonable level. If the Government finds it absolutely necessary to purchase some of the agricultural produce in order to maintain that reasonable level of price, Government should go to that extent and should take up the question of purchasing them, and maintain that level. I am saying these not with regard to tapioca alone, but as a general caution in handling a problem of this sort.

Deputy President: We have to consider the cost of tapioca separately. You cannot consider it as a general proposition. We have to get a quota from Travancore. If we fix a higher price than Travancore, they may refuse to give the quota.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* We were getting on without price control even before the Travancore Government controlled it.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* We have got enough of tapioca here.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* When the Travancore Government had fixed the price of tapioca, we had not fixed it.

Deputy President: We have to fix the price according to their price.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* We need not fix at all. The Chair does not understand me properly. The price of tapioca for instance was fixed two weeks ago. Our Government is contemplating to fix the price of tapioca during this week at a price fixed in Travancore. You ought to have negotiated with the Travancore Government and insisted on a higher rate of price and then come to a decision. Where was the difficulty?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies):* The Travancore Government notification was published on Tuesday, their gazette day. Ours was published the following Saturday. There was no time lost. I got information about it from some papers, on the day on which I was starting to Madras. I pointed out that fact to the Government, and by the time, I returned, it was published. What they did, we also followed. The very next day we started negotiations through phone and telegram and by Monday after that, we issued a gazette extraordinary. It is not a matter on which one minute's time was lost. Still, I am accused of not advising the Government in time.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* My point is, suppose the Travancore Government is going to fix a price, are we bound to imitate Travancore?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies):* Valloms and valloms were held up. Unless the same level of price were maintained the valloms may not have been allowed to come in. It is not a question of imitation.

Deputy President: If we do not fix the price here, they will object to it.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Before you fix the price here, you can communicate with the Travancore Government. I am simply drawing the attention of the Government in blindly imitating Travancore, without independently considering the local conditions.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It is not a question of imitating at all. Both Cochin and Travancore stand together so far as the food supply problem is concerned. Madras has given a general quota for the two States and it has been a definite and determined policy of this State as well as Travancore that we will go together so far as our food supply questions are concerned. That being so, and the two States being so near, and also parts of the two States are surrounded by parts of the other, it is always necessary to have a parity in price between the two States not only in the case of tapioca, but in the case of rice and paddy. When we find that there is considerable disparity in price regarding paddy or rice, we consider this question afresh. So also with regard to tapioca. It is not a question of imitation. It is a question of following a general policy for the two States.

Mr. M. L. Joseph *(Latin-Christians-Cranganur):* May I know whether this general policy has been followed in the matter of fixing the price of paddy?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Is the Government aware that the price of paddy is Re. 1—4—0 in Travancore?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It is only Re. 1—1—0.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* What is the price here?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It was 14 annas. It has been raised to 1—1—0.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* With regard to the explanation given by the Hon'ble Secretary, I think it requires very serious consideration by the Government. If we are to follow the same policy in both the States, I have no quarrel.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Minor adjustments will be made so far as transport and other charges are concerned. Fundamentally and basically, the prices should be the same.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* If that is not the position, it is vital to the interests of both the States before the fixing of prices, that there must be a general consultation with the Governments.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Every fortnight consultations are made.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* So the price of tapioca was fixed by the Civil Supplies Commissioner in consultation with the Travancore Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Sometimes, one or the other State will have to take urgent action and immediately, that action is communicated by phone or telegram and very soon afterwards, a parity is maintained. It is not possible for the Civil Supplies Commissioner to be always in Travancore or for the Travancore Officer to be in Alwaye. They are again surrounded by Tinnevelly and Tanjore; they have to consider that frontier also just as we have to consider Palghat and Coimbatore. The conditions in the different parts may vary. In emergent cases, action will have to be taken and the mutual discussion will take place by means of the phone or the telegram, and thus the parity is established.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Have you taken into consideration the conditions in Coimbatore and Malabar Districts in fixing the price of paddy?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies):* When the prices were fixed, they were taken into consideration.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Are the Government aware that at present, there is a difference of Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 between Chittur taluk and British Malabar?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies):* I hear both kinds of stories. Prices are as you said, but other reports say that they are as low as Rs. 70.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* May I know, Sir, from where these reports are received?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies):* From persons living in Vadakkancheri.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* That is not the correct information. Champan paddy is selling at Rs. 90 a cart load and Anakomban at Rs. 110. That is an aspect which I want to bring to the notice of the Government.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* From the statement made by the Secretary to the Government, it is time that we should be on our guard, because on the plea of urgency, the Travancore Government may fix any price for any produce. And, if our Government is to imitate it at once without any previous consultation, and adopt a price which was fixed without previous consultation, I would pity our Government and I would say we are being perfectly victimised.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Both the Governments want the quota from British India. They are in accord with one another.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* I say there is a duty on the part of Travancore to consult our Government.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* They are doing it, once in a fortnight.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* They are doing it.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* I have to face Treasury Benches on both sides. There is the Government on that side saying that we are consulted. There is the Treasury Bench on the other side saying that we are not consulted. I am really in a difficult position. The statement of the Treasury Bench is that we are not consulted. What I am saying is, there will be several occasions in future where this problem may crop up. It is time for our Gve rnment to have some fixed notions about this. The Travancore Government is going to fix the price without consulting us;—if that is not true, how did it happen in the case of tapioca?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* In certain urgent cases things are done in anticipation of approval. That does not mean that things are not done without joint consultation.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* With due deference to the Government Secretary, I can understand and I am conversant with the phrases usually used by the Government to get over certain definite issues. What is the fun of saying that there may be some urgent cases and that our Government should imitate? There are facts before us. The price of tapioca has been fixed as a matter of fact without consulting our Government. Our Government had not the option of not imitating that price. Our Government took, if I remember correctly, two weeks to reconsider the whole situation and to persuade the Travancore Government to fix the price reasonably according to our local conditions. I am saying this because, since instances of this sort may crop up in future, it is time for the Government to have a definite policy of understanding with Travancore and if the Travancore Government will not have the courtesy to take our Government into consultations in these matters, our Government should make representations to the proper authorities to see that we maintain our independent stand in the interests of our country. I oppose this sort of obedient victimisation cleverly taken through dubious channels with regard to this matter.

Deputy President: You are generalising on the question of tapioca which you will not be justified in doing. With regard to tapioca, we have to depend upon the Travancore Government.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* I do not admit that position.

Deputy President: That is the position of the Government. We have to get tapioca from Travancore. Travancore has not got anything from Cochin. With regard to the fixing of prices, we have to follow suit of Travancore, if we want to get tapioca from Travancore.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Are we to discontinue our cultivation here?

Deputy President: The Government have raised the price.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* I cannot help thinking that there is something radically wrong. I am not opposing co-operation with Travancore. I am for it. But there are certain ways of doing it. There is a way of gracefully doing it and in the matter of tapioca, before the price was fixed, I say Travancore Government should have consulted our Government, and our Government should have taken some time before fixing the price of tapioca. I fully believe that we have fixed the price without considering our local conditions and without knowing what its effect would be in the market. It is too late when the Government learned that the price of tapioca was too low. Tapioca dealers did not come to the market. The Civil Supplies Commissioner now argues that if the export of tapioca powder is stopped, the prices will come down. As a matter of fact, it is going on in a large scale. I deliberately went to the place where tapioca powder is manufactured and the people there rightly or wrongly were thinking that in the long run they will not be in a position to export that powder.

Deputy President: The only question is whether the price of tapioca or paddy now fixed is fair.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* The actual question is whether Government will guarantee.

Deputy President: They have fixed it.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* With regard to the price of tapioca, it is a prewar price. The cost of manure I learn is very high. It is very difficult to get ashes. Most of our ash manure is being exported to Travancore for their own purposes. Further the cost of manure has gone high. This is a report which I received from Alur a place very famous for tapioca cultivation. The cost of labour has also gone high. I think the price will have to go up. I would advise the Government to wait for some time and study the market conditions and then only come to a decision.

Deputy President: If Travancore Government and our Government successfully prohibit the export of powder, the prices will automatically go down.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* It is well that this suggestion is thrown from the Chair. The fault is this. Unless the cultivator gets a reasonable profit, he will refuse to cultivate it in future. In the interest of tapioca cultivation, I would go to the other extreme and say that the Government should maintain a reasonable price even by preventing the import of tapioca into our State. If you want to encourage cultivation, you should give a reasonable profit. If by whatever methods possible you succeed in victimising the agriculturists, you may go on with any kind of propaganda, you may make speeches; but the cultivator will cease to cultivate. I for one am not in a position to say whether this policy is right or wrong. It is a very complicated question. It is for the Government to consider very seriously the *pros* and *cons* of the matter and then come to a decision.

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With regard to the price of paddy, I was surprised to find several Government Gazettes, and particularly the Gazette of 31st October 1942, mentioning the price of paddy to be Rs. 1—1—0 in the Trichur Taluk while the control rate is as. 14½. Either I would credit honesty to the officer responsible for reporting the correct price, and I think it must be correct, or I must find fault with those persons who have been responsible for publishing the wrong figure. I ask the Government, what is the meaning of fixing the price of paddy or rice without yourself being in a position to control the price effectively? When I went to Chittur several people told me that the result of fixing the price of paddy at a low rate was that paddy was actually taken over to the British territory even from the spot of harvest. The boundary is so close. But the important factor is this: whether the price you have fixed in Chittur is reasonable considering the rate existing in British Malabar. You will have to arm all the boundaries of Cochin with sufficient number of police or excise officers to prevent export. You want to commandeer paddy for the State by fixing the price at a certain rate and making it available for the Government. I should say we are following a very miserable policy with regard to the price control scheme. I am saying this because we have to consider several factors in fixing the price. I do not mind fixing the price at a higher rate if conditions warrant that. When once price is fixed, you should see that it is a reasonable price and actual control is effectively exercised according to that price. Otherwise, the trouble will be neither paddy nor rice will be available in our State. It will be elsewhere. What has been our experience with regard to rice? When we met for the last session of the Council, there was a crisis similar to this in the whole State. Representations were made to the Government by several parties, and on the Government coming to a certain understanding, the representatives of the people had to take upon themselves the responsibility of advising the people going about throughout the whole State and advising them to co-operate with the Government and to see that the price is effectively maintained by timely information to the Government. But with what result? There are many many cases where Government have received apologies from prominent merchants and let them go. We as a matter of fact have induced the people to complain. That is our duty. But there is a corresponding duty on the part of the Government that the work that is done by the non-officials is supplemented by sufficient *bonafides* and strength on the part of the Government and see that they actually save the people from this situation. I should think that when a critical situation arises, our Government miserably fail either to control the supply of rice or paddy or to control the price. What is the result? At a time when the price of rice is going up.....

Deputy President: We are on raising the prices and not controlling.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur)*: Both go together. There is no raising without controlling and no controlling without raising. This should not go one by one. They should go together. Otherwise one is a failure and the other may be a success. The point that I stress is, you may fix a high rate; there is no harm. The trouble comes in, when you fix a low rate and induce merchants to keep rice with them; the result is, the Civil Supplies Commissioner and the Diwan who take enormous pains to get sufficient quota from British India find themselves actually lost. What is attained by so much mountainous labour at the top is lost at the bottom. I fail to see the result of the work done. Unless you are in a position to say that rice is fairly distributed, there is no use of controlling it. The merchants either refuse to sell rice or they sell rice at a rate much above the controlled rate. Sir, I can cite before this House an instance when I visited Kodakara. I found several people coming and representing to me that as a matter of fact they were not living on rice at all. I asked them, "are you living on tapioca? They said, "no". I asked them, on what blessed thing are you then living? They brought to me seeds of a certain grass-growing in the paddy fields. I think they call it "Avana pullu". I collected some and gave to Mr. Iyyu out of curiosity. They say they charge two pies for one *nazhi*. I am saying this because the Civil Supplies Commissioner does not know what is happening in the State.

Deputy President: I do not think you are relevant.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur)*: I am on the point that in fixing a fair price, it should be a reasonable price to the seller and to the producer. And at the same time you should see that consumers get the commodity at the controlled price. I shall explain to the Chair if I am irrelevant.

The point is when you fix the price of paddy or rice at a lower rate than what it ought to have been, the result is that you do not get rice or paddy at all. Therefore, I say in fixing the price you should be reasonably taking these things into consideration. That is my point. I have said all that I have to say. It is left to the Government to consider these aspects. I have one request that the Civil Supplies Commissioner should never be under the impression that personal attacks come from this side. We are far far above personal attacks. As a matter of fact, when

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

a resolution vitally affecting the Civil Supplies Commissioner was discussed in this House during the last session. I was one of those who defended him, because I thought that it was an occasion when I should do so. When we make representations to this House, we make it with our *bonafides* and it is very seldom that our *bonafides* will agree with the *bonafides* of the Government. We come into touch with the people and even if unpalatable to you, we are bound to say what we feel. Naturally our interests cannot agree. Even in disagreement, there is a way of pushing forward towards the proper solution, if only you view these things impassionately. Don't be carried away by self-complacency. Don't be carried away with the impression that you know the real state of affairs in all parts of the State and you know all things. You should give proper weight to the representations, examine these questions, investigate them. First of all think that you really do not know; then investigate; learn what happens in the State. Do not have self-complacency in these matters, because, we are in a crisis where self-complacency will draw very heavily on public welfare.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: The real scope of the resolution extends to this, that the agriculturists of the State, the producers of food materials should get a fair price. I do not take the word guarantee in its legal sense and I do not want that the Government should give a bond. I suppose what is required by the Hon'ble Member for Chalakkudi, is that the actual producers should get a fair price for the commodities so painfully raised by them. That is the scope of the resolution. Far be it from me to go into interstatal questions—and I would only say that in fixing prices see that a fair deal is given to the producers. That is how I understand it. If that is the real meaning of the resolution, it is unnecessary to go into all the other points raised. If I understand Mr. Moothedan correctly, the real occasion for the motion is the fixing of the price of tapioca.

I will come to that straight. Before the war, 20 Dutch pounds (*i.e.*, one 'thulam) was fetching between five and six annas. There is now a definite case for increasing the price twice or at least 1½ times. Everybody now knows that the wages of labourers have risen to double what it was; the price of manure has gone up; the price of tapioca stems, has gone up. If you take into consideration these factors, that the contributory materials of labour, etc., have gone up two times, then it necessarily follows that there is a case for raising the price of tapioca. In all these matters, we have always to be guided by the fact that the vast majority of the people are really actuated by what is called profit motive. It is only in a few cases that altruism comes in. The actual motive is to make profit. I am supported in my statement by a resolution of the recent conference of businessmen in England who decided that the factor of profit motive should not be taken away. Nobody grows tapioca for the purpose of enabling other people to thrive. Certainly not. Everyone grows it because he may thrive and his children may thrive. Prices of other materials have gone up tremendously. Cocoanut oil is only one instance. I do not know which Malayalee can get on without cocoanut oil. This in fact is a simple case. These factors have all to be considered. Further, there is the question of definite encouragement that ought to be given. I may tell the Hon'ble members that last year, and at the begining of the S. W. monsoon, people began to purchase lemon grass seeds which cost formerly Rs. 2 per bag at Rs. 30 a bag. People converted paddy fields into lemon grass fields. Why did they do so? There was no production drive; there was no propaganda. People by themselves, at their own motion and volition purchased lemon grass seeds from the Nelliampathies and the Annamalais; even brought it here, and converted even paddy fields into lemon grass fields with a view to get profit. We must be realists not theorists. If a man is actuated by profit motive and if one will not pay or encourage that motive, the result is that nobody will work. If you want more tapioca, give more price. Just as paddy fields became lemon grass fields, lemon grass fields will be used for the cultivation of tapioca. Depend upon it that if you fix the price of tapioca at Re. 1 per thulam, even cocoanut trees standing on cocoanut gardens will be demolished and tapioca will be cultivated. In the coastal regions, tapioca is now being planted between cocoanut palms. My case therefore is that in fixing the cost of these food materials, all these factors will have to be taken into consideration. Without entering into a spirit of destructive criticism and at the same time paying a high tribute to the Civil Supplies Commissioner for his vigorous efforts to meet the situation, I would point out to him that in this matter of fixing the price, he was wrong. Six pies per pound is only reasonable. Even before the war, it was 3 pies. There may be a few who are prepared to sell at a lower rate without any consideration of profit motive at all. But it is not everybody. A poor man who has got one acre cannot sell at five annas per thulam. So you must raise it to 6 pies.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

As regards the other food materials, I have been considering this question like every other patriotic Indian. To me there are two alternatives—the one is laizes faire, complete freedom, non-interference with prices, allowing the economic laws of supply and demand free scope. That was the policy which was followed by the liberal ministries of England. That seems to be best—Experience teaches us that it is vain to fight against economic laws.

The Civil Supplies Commissioner, even if he has all the 1,000 heads of Ananda and all the hands of Ravana cannot be expected to make all the individuals of the State do correctly. It is impossible. The fault lies in the system. We are surrounded by lands under alien jurisdiction. Take for example Malayattur. It is a small island surrounded by Travancore, and it is easy to take food materials beyond the borders. The best course is to throw open all these barriers. We are all Indians. Between Malayattur and Parur, there is a natural waterwry. If a man simply floats in the water, he reaches Parur. If you float tapioca in the river it will reach Parur. You cannot fight against this natural waterway. The Governments however are wiser than I. They have put up strong barriers. If you make these States water-tight compartments, you must be able to do it well. The second thing is to Commandeer all the food materials; buy everything. Say that it is a heinous crime to sell paddy. Buy all the paddy in the State; buy all the tapioca in the State and then do as they do in Russia. Let the Government nationalise these materials. I suppose these humble words of mine will be considered by the powers that be. I am not casting any aspersion on any one. In the matter of food materials, see that proper price is obtained by the producer.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. വി. ജയ്ജ്: സർ, നെല്ലിന് പറക്ക് എത്രയാണ് വിലയെന്നുവെച്ചാൽ ആ വിലയാണ് ക.ദ ം ഉദ്ദിഷ്ടമുള്ള ഒരു ഉല്പാദം കൊള്ളിക്കുന്നതിനുവരുന്ന കാലമായിട്ടായിരുന്നിട്ടുള്ള വില.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എം. മാഥചവ്യാർ: എവിടെയാണ്?

മിസ്റ്റർ. സി. വി. ജയ്ജ്: ഞാൻ താമസിക്കുന്ന രാജ്യത്തൊക്കെ വില്പനയാണ്. ഒരു പറ നെല്ലിന്റെ വിലയാണ് ഒരു ഉല്പാദം കൊള്ളിക്കുക. കൊള്ളി കമാൻറിയർ ചെയ്യുവാൻ നെല്ല് കമാൻറിയർ ചെയ്യുമ്പോലെ എളുപ്പത്തിൽ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. കൊള്ളിക്ക് റാത്തലിന് ഇന്ന വിലയെന്ന നിശ്ചയിക്കരുത്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കാരികെ കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങു പുറത്തുപോകാതെയും പൊടിയാക്കാൻ സമ്മതിക്കാതെയും സൂക്ഷിച്ചാൽ മതി. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നിയന്ത്രണം നിലനിന്നപക്ഷം ആരും കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങു പറിക്കയില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ കുട്ടി: പറിക്കാതെയിരുന്നാൽ അതു മതിയാകും.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. വി. ജയ്ജ്: നെല്ല് കിട്ടിയില്ലെങ്കിൽ കൊള്ളികൊണ്ടെങ്കിലും കഴിക്കാം. കൊള്ളിയുംകൂടി കിട്ടാഞ്ഞാൽ ക @ ദിവസംപോലും ആരും ജീവിച്ചിരിക്കയില്ല. കൊള്ളി വന്നുപറ്റുന്ന മാസം വരെയും പറിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാതെ ഇരിക്കാം: അതു മാർഗ്ഗത്തിൽ വിലനടത്തണമെങ്കിൽ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കണം. അതിനിലനിയന്ത്രണം നിലനിന്നുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ നല്ലത് നെല്ല് കണ്ടുന്നതിനുള്ള യന്ത്രങ്ങളൊക്കെ നിറുത്തലാക്കുകയാണ് ഒരു വില്ലേജിൽനിന്ന് അടുത്തുള്ള രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ വില്ലേജുകളിലേക്കല്ലാതെ നെല്ല് കൊണ്ടുപോകുവാൻ പ്രയാസമാണ്. താലിയാണെങ്കിൽ താലിനപ്പുറവും കൊണ്ടുപോകാം. മറ്റാരോഹിയിലും ഇപ്പറഞ്ഞുള്ള കച്ചവടക്കാരെ ഒഴിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനു സാധിക്കയില്ലെങ്കിൽ സിവിൽ സപ്ലൈ കമ്മിഷണരുടെ അധികാരവും ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ഭരണവും അവരെ ഏല്പിക്കുക; സിവിൽ സപ്ലൈ കമ്മിഷണരുടെ ഉദ്യോഗം നിറുത്തലാക്കുക. I challange the Civil Supplies Commissioner and the Government. മറ്റാരോഹിയിലെ നാല കച്ചവടക്കാരും ഇപ്പറഞ്ഞുള്ള നാല കച്ചവടക്കാരുംകൂടി ഒരു സിവിൽ സപ്ലൈ കമ്മിഷൻ ബോർഡ് നിയമിക്കട്ടെ. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള സമ്പ്രദായത്തെക്കാൾ വലിയ വ്യത്യാസം ഉണ്ടാകയില്ല. അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്താൽ പ്രൊഡ്യൂസിനു ശരിയായ വില കിട്ടും. പട്ടാളത്തിൽ പോയിട്ടുള്ളവരുടെ കുടുംബത്തിലെ ക്ഷേമത്തെപ്പറ്റിയും അന്വേഷിക്കുന്നതിനിടയിൽ പട്ടാളത്തിൽ പോയവരുടെ കുടുംബങ്ങളിൽപെട്ട പലരും കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങുകൂടി കിട്ടാതെ ക്ഷണം കഴിക്കാതെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന അനുഭവം ഉണ്ടെന്നു കാണാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ വിവരം കാണിച്ചു ഞാൻ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിലേക്ക് റിപ്പോർട്ട് ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ദാരിദ്ര്യത്തിന്റെ അധികൃം നിമിത്തം നാലണവീതം ഞാൻ അവർക്ക് കൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്തുവരുന്നു.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ: നാലണയായിട്ട് എന്തിനു കൊടുത്തു, കാശായിട്ട് ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ലേ?

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. വി. ഇയ്യു: നാഴിയരിക്കുള്ള വിലയെങ്കിലും ഇരിക്കട്ടെ എന്നു കരുതിയാണു് കൊടുത്തതു്. ഇതിനേക്കാൾ ദാരിദ്ര്യമാണു് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ. അവിടെ ആവശ്യമുള്ള കൊള്ളി കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു കടലാസിൽ മാത്രമാണു കാണുന്നതു്. ഏട്ടിലെ പശു പുല്ലു് തിന്നുകയില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു് അവിടത്തെ ദിവാൻ സി. പി. രാമസ്വാമി അയ്യർ അങ്ങിനെ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും മറ്റും പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതൊന്നും ലേശവും നടക്കാത്ത കാര്യമാണു്.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: Don't make such allegations please. We have already got export permits issued from Travancore on the way to this place without even making a requisition.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: I am thankful for the statement and I beg to withdraw my words.

Deputy President: I have to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Members to one fact. In making references to other Governments it is better to be a little more cautious.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur)*: Also cautious for the Treasury Bench to avoid reference to other Governments.

Deputy President: They don't make uncharitable references.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. വി. ഇയ്യു: I gave the most charitable interpretation. അതുകൊണ്ടു് വില നിശ്ചയത്തിന്റെ കാര്യത്തിലും അതുത്പാദനത്തിന്റെ കാര്യത്തിലും ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങളുടെ വിലനിയന്ത്രണത്തിന്റെ കാര്യത്തിലും കാര്യക്ഷമമായ ഏതെങ്കിലും വിധത്തിൽ ഒരു പദ്ധതിയുണ്ടാക്കി ഭക്ഷണത്തിനു വേണ്ടുന്ന സാധനങ്ങളെല്ലാം കിട്ടാവുന്ന വിധത്തിൽ ഉള്ള ഒരു വില നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനു ദയവുണ്ടാകണം. നെല്ലിന്റെ വിലയായിരിക്കണം കൊള്ളിയുടേയും വില.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഉണക്കിയതിനാണോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. വി. ഇയ്യു: പച്ചക്കിഴങ്ങിനാണെന്നാണു് എന്റെ അറിവു്. ഇതിനെല്ലാം പുറമെ മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിൽനിന്നു കുന്നംകുളത്തേക്കു ചരക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോകണമെങ്കിൽ രണ്ടു ഗവൺമെണ്ടു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽക്കൂടി വേണം പോകുവാൻ. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ നമ്മുടെ കീഴ്ക്കോയ്മയല്ലായിരുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ മൂന്നു ഗവൺമെണ്ടുകളിൽക്കൂടി കൊണ്ടുപോകേണ്ടിവരുമായിരുന്നു. മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിലുള്ള സാധനങ്ങൾ തലപ്പിള്ളി താലൂക്കിന്റെ പടിഞ്ഞാറു ഭാഗത്തു് എത്തണമെങ്കിൽ മിക്കവാറും ഇപ്പോൾ വളരെ പ്രയാസമായിട്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. പെർമിറു കിട്ടുന്നതിനു് ഒരു അപേക്ഷ അയച്ചാൽ വളരെ താമസിച്ചാണു് കിട്ടുന്നതു്. അതിനകം സാമാനങ്ങൾ കേടുവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല, അതുവരെ അവിടെ ഇട്ടുന്നതിനുള്ള ചിലവും കൂടുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് മൂന്നു ഗവൺമെണ്ടുകളുംകൂടി യോജിച്ചു് പെർമിറു് ഇഷ്യു ചെയ്യേണ്ട കാര്യത്തിൽ വേണ്ട സൌകര്യങ്ങളുണ്ടാക്കിയാൽ സാമാനങ്ങൾക്കു ശരിയായ വില കിട്ടുവാനിടയുണ്ടു്. ഇതു് പ്രത്യേകം ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ പെടേണ്ടതാണു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: സർ, കഷ്ടകരുടെയിടയിൽ കാഷ്ടികോല്പന്നങ്ങൾക്കു് എത്രത്തോളം വില കിട്ടിയാലും പോരാ എന്നു തോന്നുന്നതു് സ്വഭാവസാധാരണയായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങിനും എത്രവില കേറിവെച്ചാലും പോരാ എന്നേ തോന്നുകയുള്ളു.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ: സാധുക്കളാണു് ഇതധികവും കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: സാധുക്കളാണെങ്കിൽ ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഇത്രയധികം മുറവിളിയുണ്ടാകാനിടയില്ല. ഭക്ഷ്യോല്പാദനപദ്ധതിയനുസരിച്ചു കൃഷിചെയ്യാൻ തുടങ്ങിയപ്പോൾതന്നെ കൊള്ളികൃഷി അധികവും ചെയ്തു തുടങ്ങിയതു് പണക്കാരാണു്. From my own personal experience I can challenge.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur)*: I accept the challenge. I have travelled throughout the State as much as you.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: യുദ്ധത്തിനുമുമ്പു് കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങിനു കാട്ടർ ചന്തയിൽ ൨ ൦ റാത്തലുള്ള ഒരു തുലാത്തിനു ൩ ണ. യായിരുന്ന വില. റാത്തലിനു ൨ പൈയായിരുന്നു. ഈ കാലങ്ങളിൽ ചില്ലറ വില്ക്കുമ്പോൾ ൩ പൈയും, തുലാക്കണക്കിനു വില്ക്കുമ്പോൾ ൪ ണ.യും, ചിലപ്പോൾ ൪൬ ണ.യും വിലയുണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. വി. മൂത്തേടൻ: യുദ്ധത്തിനു മുമ്പാണോ?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലത്തെ കഥയാണ് പറയുന്നത്. തിരു വിതാംകൂറിൽ ഒ പൈക്കു ഫ റാത്തൽ കൊടുക്കുവാനുള്ള വില നിയന്ത്രണം ചെയ്തപ്പോൾ അതിനെ അനുകരിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് നാമും പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചു. നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തെ സ്ഥിതിക്ക അത് ന്യായമായ വിലയായിട്ടില്ലെന്നു തോന്നിയതുകൊണ്ടും, മറ്റു പലവിധത്തിലുള്ള റപ്രസന്റേഷൻസ് കിട്ടിയതുകൊണ്ടും ഈ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു തന്നത്താൻ തോന്നിയതുകൊണ്ടുമായിരിക്കണം റാത്തലിനു ര പൈ വീതം വിലയാക്കിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഫ ഠ റാത്തലുള്ള ഒരു തുലാത്തിനു ന്യ ണ. വ പൈ. വിലയുണ്ട്. അതു് ഒരു മാതിരി ഫെയർ പ്രൈസ് ആയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു് കൊള്ളിക്കാരായ പലരും എന്റെ സഞ്ചാരവേളയിൽ എന്നോടും പറയുകണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. മിസ്റ്റർ എം. കെ. ദേവസ്സിയും ഞാനുംകൂടി ഒ പൈക്കു രണ്ടു റാത്തലിനുപകരം റാത്തലിനു ര പൈ ആക്കിയാൽ നന്നായിരിക്കുമെന്നു്, അതു് ഒരു മയ്യാദയായിരിക്കുമെന്നു് സംസാരിക്കുകയുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഭാഗ്യവശാൽ ആ ര പൈതന്നെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുമുണ്ട്. കൊള്ളികൃഷിമാത്രം ചെയ്യുന്ന ചാലക്കുടി, പരിയാരം മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പക്ഷെ ഇതുകൊണ്ടു പ്രതിബന്ധമുണ്ടാകുമോ എന്നറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. വി. മൂത്തേടൻ: അവിടത്തെ കിഴങ്ങിനു വളരെ വിശേഷമുണ്ട്. ഉപയോഗിച്ചു നോക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: പൂട്ടുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതും, കരിവെക്കുന്നതും, മോരുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതും, ഉപ്പും, പുളിയുംകൂടി അവിടെ കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങാണെന്നു് എനിക്കറിയും.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. വി. മൂത്തേടൻ: തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ കിഴങ്ങിനേക്കാൾ വളരെ വിശേഷമാണു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഭക്ഷ്യാല്പാദനം സംബന്ധിച്ചു് യാതൊരു വിധത്തിലും ബന്ധപ്പെടാത്ത ചില കാര്യങ്ങൾ ഈ പ്രമേയാവതാരകൻ, പ്രമേയം അവതരിപ്പിച്ച സമയത്തു് ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞതുകൊണ്ടു് അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് എനിക്കു രണ്ടുവാക്കു പറയുവാനുണ്ട്. കൊച്ചിരാജ്യമൊട്ടാകെ എത്രയായിരം പുറംപോക്കു സ്ഥലമുണ്ടെന്നു് അദ്ദേഹം മനസ്സിലാക്കീട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഒ ഏക്കറിൽ കവിയാതെ കൊടുക്കണം എന്നു പറയുകയില്ലായിരുന്നു. ഒ ഏക്കർ എന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു് എന്തുകാരണം കൊണ്ടായിരിക്കുമെന്നറിയുന്നില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. വി. മൂത്തേടൻ: ഒ ഏക്കർ എന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ ഒ ഏക്കർതന്നെയാണു്. അല്ലാതെ ഒ സെന്റ് ആണോ.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: വളരെയധികമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ആ തോതനുസരിച്ചു കൊടുക്കാം. അതില്ലാതെ ഒ ഏക്കർ വീതം കൊടുക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതു് എങ്ങിനെയാണെന്നു് മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. ഇനിയും ഒരു പരശുരാമനേയോ മറ്റൊരാളെക്കൊണ്ടു് മഴു എറിയിച്ചു് രണ്ടാമതും കുറെ സ്ഥലമുണ്ടാക്കി എല്ലാവർക്കും വീതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ തക്ക തന്റേടമോ, അതു് സാദ്ധ്യമാണോ എന്നാലോചിക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടത്ര തട്ടുമുറ്റുള്ള സാമാന്യമോ ഇല്ലാത്ത ദോഷമാണു് ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അല്ലാതെ എന്റെ ദോഷമല്ല. ഉള്ള ഭൂമികൊണ്ടു മാത്രമേ ഭാഗിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ.

ഡിപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡണ്ടു്: ഭൂമി വീതിക്കുന്ന കാര്യമല്ല ഇതിലുള്ളതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഉള്ള ഭൂമികൊണ്ടു് അതാതിന്റെ തരംപോലെ ഭാഗിയായി വീതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ അധികാരം വേണം, ഈ നിയമസഭക്കു കൂടുതൽ അധികാരം വേണം എന്നു പറയുന്ന ആളുകൾക്കു് അവനവന്റെ കാര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി ചോദ്യം ചെയ്യാൻ അധികാരമില്ല.

ഉപ്പിക കടം കൊടുക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞു. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇപ്പോൾ ന്യായമായ വില കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഇതിലും കൂടുതലായാൽ അതു സാധുക്കൾക്കു വളരെ കഷ്ടമായിരിക്കുമെന്നു ഈ നിയമസഭയെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം അവസാനിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: സർ, കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങിനു വില വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഒരു സ്വരമാണു് ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിൽനിന്നും, മറ്റു മെമ്പന്മാരുടെ പ്രസംഗങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും എനിക്കു മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്. എന്നാൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് ഇപ്പോൾ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള റേറ്റു് വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു വളരെ സൂക്ഷിച്ചു വേണമെന്നാണു് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. അരിക്കു വില കുറവായിരുന്ന കാലത്തു് ഈ സാധനത്തിനും വില കുറവായിരുന്നു എന്നു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട കുറുങ്കുളം മെമ്പർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. പക്ഷെ, അരി

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യുടെ വിലക്കുറവുകൊണ്ടല്ല ഇതിനു വില കുറഞ്ഞിരുന്നതു് എന്നു് അല്പം ചിന്തിച്ചാൽ കാണാവുന്നതാണു്. ആ കാലത്തു് കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങു് പൊടിയാക്കി വിദേശങ്ങളിലേക്കു് അയയ്ക്കുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായമുണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. വി. ഇയ്യു: അരിയുടെ വില ഇപ്പോൾ കൂടിയതുകൊണ്ടാണോ അതുണ്ടായതു്?

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: അല്ല, മുമ്പു് വിദേശങ്ങളായ അമേരിക്ക മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ഇന്ത്യയിലെ തുണിമില്ലുകൾക്കാവശ്യമായ പൊടികൾ ഇവിടെ ധാരാളമായി വന്നിരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു് ഈ കൊള്ളിപൊടി കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുകയുണ്ടായില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ കപ്പൽ ഗതാഗതം നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടതോടുകൂടി ഇന്ത്യയിലെ മില്ലുടമസ്ഥന്മാക്കു ഇതേ തരത്തിലുള്ള പൊടികൾ അത്യാവശ്യമായി വന്നു. അങ്ങിനെ അവരുടെ അന്വേഷണത്തിൽ നിന്നും കൊള്ളിപൊടി മിൽതുണികൾക്കുപകാരപ്രദമായിരിക്കുമെന്നു മനസ്സിലായതിന്റെ ഫലമായിട്ടാണു്, ഇപ്പോൾ കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങിൽനിന്നും പൊടിയെടുത്തുപയോഗിക്കാൻ തുടങ്ങിയതു്. ഈ ഉപയോഗം കുറേശ്ശെ കുറേശ്ശെയായി വളർച്ചു തുടങ്ങിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഒരു ഹൺഡഡ്‌വെയിറ്റ് പൊടിക്കു് ൨൫ രൂപ വിലയുണ്ടെന്നാണു് എന്റെ അറിവു്. ഒരു മന്നു കിഴങ്ങിൽനിന്നും പത്തുമുതൽ പന്ത്രണ്ടുവരെ റാത്തൽ പൊടിയേ്ാളം കിട്ടുമെന്നാണു് കാണുന്നതു്. ഒരു മന്നു കിഴങ്ങിൽനിന്നു രണ്ടുരൂപാവരെ പിരിച്ചെടുക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിന്റെ ജോലി ആദായകരമാണന്നു വന്നതോടുകൂടി ഓരോ വീടുകളിലും ഈ പൊടിവ്യവസായം വളർപ്പിക്കുകയും തന്മൂലം നാട്ടിൽ ഭക്ഷണത്തിനു കിഴങ്ങു കിട്ടാതേയും വില വളർച്ചും വരുകയാണു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. യുദ്ധം ആരംഭിക്കുന്ന കാലത്തു ഏതാണ്ടു ഒരു കൊല്ലംമുമ്പുവരെയും ഈ മാർക്കറ്റിൽ ൩ ൦ റാത്തലുള്ള ഒരു മന്നു കിഴങ്ങു് ൩ അണ മുതൽ ൪ അണവരെ നിലവാരമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അതിനുശേഷം കൊള്ളിപൊടി ജോലി അതിന്റെ വില വളർപ്പിച്ചു. ഇന്നാണെങ്കിൽ, തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടും, കൊച്ചിഗവർമ്മെണ്ടും, പൊടിയെടുത്തു് അന്യരാജ്യങ്ങളിലേക്കയക്കുന്നതിനെ നിർബ്ബന്ധപൂർവ്വം തടഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അങ്ങിനെ തടഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു് വില ഏതു നിലയിൽ വളർച്ചുവോ അതെ നിലയിൽ താഴുവാനും ഇടയുണ്ടു്. ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിന്റെ ഈ കൺട്രോൾകൊണ്ടു് വില കുറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഇന്നു ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടു് നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന റേറ്റു് പത്തണയാണു്. ഞാൻ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിനോടു പറയുന്നു, ഒരു റേറ്റു് എല്ലാ സ്ഥലത്തും വെക്കുന്നതു് അബദ്ധമാണന്നു്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ൨ൽ പൌണ്ടു കിഴങ്ങിനു ൭ പൈയും, ൧൦ പൈയും ആക്കീട്ടുണ്ടു്. കിഴങ്ങു പറിക്കുന്നതിക്കിൽ ൭ പൈയും, ബസ്സാറിൽ ൧൦ പൈയും ആണു അവിടെ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇങ്ങനെ വ്യത്യസ്തമായ ഒരു റേറ്റു വെക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഇവിടെയും പട്ടണങ്ങളിൽ അതു ധാരാളമായി ലഭിക്കുന്നതായിരിക്കും. വില കുറയുവാനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെ പലതുമുണ്ടു്. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട കുന്നുകുളം മെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ ഈ സാധനം വളരെക്കാലം മണ്ണിൽ ഇട്ടു സൂക്ഷിക്കാൻ സാധ്യമല്ല. ൧൦ മാസം കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ അതു മൂക്കുകയും, അവസാനം മരമാകുകയും ചെയ്യും. എത്രയായാലും അതു് ൧ വർഷത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ മണ്ണിലിട്ടു സൂക്ഷിക്കാൻ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. അതു മുറിച്ചു് ഉണക്കി ശേഖരിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽത്തന്നെയും ൩ മാസത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ സൂക്ഷിക്കുവാൻ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. ഈ പരിതസ്ഥിതിയിൽ, അതിന്റെ വില വളർപ്പിക്കുന്ന കാര്യം വളരെ ചിന്തിച്ചുവേണമെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: Sir, the Government does not propose to oppose this resolution. The principle involved has been borne in mind and action has been taken. It is only after careful consideration and making elaborate enquiries with regard to the prices prevailing here and the prices prevailing in Travancore from the month of Medam to Kanni that we have fixed the price now. The price fixed now is the maximum demand that was made from certain quarters. I think that the price fixed is very fair.

With reference to the other criticisms I do not propose to say anything as they are personal.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: I am very thankful that the Government has not opposed this motion. I also anticipated that it will not be opposed. By way of reply I wish to make a few remarks about certain comments made in the course of the discussion.

The Civil Supplies Commissioner is under a mistake and I wish to correct him. He says that we have to depend solely upon Travancore for tapioca supply. It is not correct. The correct position is like this. Before this war tapioca from Pariyaram, Chalakkudy, Malayattur were sold in Parur Market. In Ernakulam we were getting supplies from Changanacheri. Now what I say is we don't want tapioca from Changanacheri. We have got tapioca in

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Pariyarm, Malayattur, Chiyaram etc. We only want permits to take these supplies through Travancore Territory. Instead of saying dogmatically that we have to depend upon Travancore let him try this. We are getting tapioca from Travancore and we are also supplying the whole of Parur Taluk. They are taking tapioca to Trichur and Kunnamkulam from Pariyaram.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* In Kunnamkulam we are getting tapioca from Changanacheri.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* My contention is that you must make further enquiries into this problem before you say that we must depend upon Travancore.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies):* We have already investigated.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* What I say is we do not want tapioca from Travancore.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies):* When we ask another State to give us something one Member stands up and says we don't want it. We have made sufficient investigation and it is after that that we have made this arrangement. It is wrong to say that we were not getting from Travancore.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Parur Taluk was getting mainly from Pariyaram, Chalakkudi Malayattur, etc. You simply ignore that aspect.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies):* I have already made investigations.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Is it not a fact that before the war the Parur Taluk had its main source of supply of tapioca from Pariyaram, Malayattur, etc. What I say is Travancore people depend upon Cochin for tapioca and Cochin depends upon Travancore. To say that we are entirely dependent upon Travancore is not correct.

Mr. M. L. Joseph *(Latin-Christians-Cranganur):* Cochin depends upon Travancore to a greater extent.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* I would, therefore, very earnestly request the Commissioner to consider this suggestion.

One or two aspects will have to be remembered in fixing the prices. The most important factor is the cost of production. The cost of production is the primary factor to be taken into consideration when price is fixed. The biggest item is wages. Now wages have risen to 2½ or 3 times. Prices also will have to be proportionately increased. In Travancore the wages may be very low. On the other hand our place is very much advanced, the labour movement has spread more and the wages are higher. It is really so. In Travancore the level of wages is lower than the level of wages in Cochin. If you fix the same level we will be put to trouble.

Then there is another aspect also. The purchasing power of one chakram is equivalent to one anna in Cochin State. When we spend one anna in Cochin State they spend one chakram. Their cost of living is proportionately less. That aspect also thould be taken into consideration.

Deputy President: Mr. Moothedan, the Government do not oppose your resolution. They have practically accepted the resolution.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* I am just opening their eyes to some other aspects which they have not seen.

Mr. Mathai had some difficulty about guarantee. I meant only the ordinary meaning. I do not want that the Government revenue should be made a charge for the agriculturists' loss. I don't want the Government to say "We hereby guarantee that the general revenues of the State will be a charge for the loss of the agriculturists". What I want is Government should declare that we assure you that fair prices will be given to you.

Deputy President: There is no necessity to speak any further on the resolution which has been accepted by the Government.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* I want to reply to Mr. K. S. Panicker. But he is not here.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* We will sit till 5-30. But we don't want to have it tomorrow.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* As per the Standing Orders I am entitled to take as much time as is necessary.

Deputy President: Do you press the motion?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Certainly.

Resolution put and carried

The House rose for the day at 5 p.m.

K. S. RAGHAVAN
Secretary to the Council

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